

CROPS

New Jersey had a cool wet spring followed by abrupt hot, dry weather in 2001. In late May, dry weather stunted growth in some small grain fields and hindered grain development. Since rainfall was spotty throughout the state, soil types that could retain more moisture did better than other fields. Dry weather conditions did not impact hay until around the third cutting.

Corn planted in 2001 totaled 80,000 acres, 66,000 of which was harvested for grain. Yield decreased 22 bushels to 112 bushels per acre. This decrease in yield lowered production by 2.66 million bushels to a level of 7.39 million bushels. Acres harvested for silage decreased by 1,000 acres to 13,000. Silage yield was down 1 ton per acre to 16 tons per acre. Corn for silage production was 208,000 tons, 13 percent lower than in 2000. Growers received \$2 per bushel for their grain, an increase of 3 cents per bushel from 2000's price of \$1.97 per bushel. The total crop value for corn for grain decreased by 25 percent from 2000's \$19.8 million to \$14.8 million in 2001.

Soybean planted and harvested acreage increased by 3,000 acres to 103,000 and 101,000, respectively, in 2001. Soybean yield decreased 9 bushels per acre from last year's record high of 40 bushels per acre to 31 bushels per acre in 2001. Production decreased to 3.13 million bushels from 2000's 3.92 million bushels. There was a decrease of 30 cents in the price received in 2001 to \$4.05 per bushel, compared to 2000's return of \$4.35 per bushel. Total crop value decreased by 26 percent from 2000's \$17.1 million to \$12.7 million in 2001.

The 31,000 acres planted to winter wheat in 2001 was 9,000 less than in 2000. Harvested acreage was estimated at 27,000, a decrease of 8,000 acres below 2000's harvested acres. Yield at 45 bushels per acre was 12 bushel per acre less than the previous year. Production at 1.22 million bushels was down 39 percent from 2000. The season average price of \$2.30 was 20 cents more than the price in 2000. Due to the decrease in harvested acres and yield, total crop value decreased by 33 percent to \$2.78 million.

Barley planted and harvested acres remained unchanged at 5,000 and 4,000, respectively, in 2001. Yield, at 54 bushels per acre, was down 24 bushel per acre from 2000. Production decreased by 31 percent from 2000 to 216,000 bushels. The prices received by growers remained unchanged from 2000 at \$1.30 per bushel in 2001. The value of barley produced decreased 31 percent from 2000 to \$281,000.

Acres of hay harvested decreased by 10,000 acres to 120,000 in 2001. Alfalfa hay remained unchanged from 2000 at 30,000 acres while other hay decreased by 10,000 acres to 90,000 in 2001. Yield for alfalfa hay increased by 13 percent to 3.4 tons per acre from 2000, while the yield for other hay remained unchanged at 1.70 tons per acre. The overall yield was 2.13 tons per acre. Alfalfa production was 102,000 tons and other hay production was 153,000 tons; the resulting total hay production was 255,000 tons. The season average price for all hay increased \$1 per ton from 2000's \$108 to \$109 in 2001. Overall, total crop value decreased by less than 1 percent in 2001 to \$27.9 million.

Potato planted and harvested acreage remained unchanged at 2,500 acres each. Yield was down 11 percent at 255 hundredweight per acre in 2001 from 2000's 285 hundredweight per acre. Total production was down 11 percent from 2000 to 638,000 hundredweight. The season average price of \$6 was 25 cents less than 2000's \$6.25 per hundredweight. Total crop value decreased by 14 percent to \$3.83 million in 2001.

Sweet potatoes planted and harvested acreage remained unchanged at 1,200. Yield was 105 hundredweight per acre, an increase of 5 percent from last year. Total production increased by 6,000 hundredweight to 126,000 hundredweight, 5 percent above 2000. The season average price of \$19.60 was \$1.90 less than 2000's \$21.50 per hundredweight. Total crop value decreased by 4 percent to \$2.47 million.